THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) A few cases of suicides committed by students have been reported in Delhi.

(b) and (c) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has directed its affiliated schools to introduce Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) upto Class VIII with no pass-fail criteria upto Class V. There are no external examinations upto Class IX in the schools affiliated with CBSE.

Vacancies in State universities

2820. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 30 per cent of teaching positions in the country's Central and State universities lying vacant despite efforts by the Central Government and just 10 States have been asked to provide details of the number of teaching posts and vacancies in their colleges and universities;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for lying these posts vacant; and

(c) what are the steps and efforts being made to fill all the vacancies of teaching in both Central and State universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), there are 1923 teaching posts out of 9261 teaching posts lying vacant in Central Universities as on 31/10/2007 (21 %). The Commission has so far collected information from 74 State Universities where 627 teaching positions are vacant as on 1/5/2007. The UGC has been advising all the Central Universities to fill up the vacant posts in Universities. It has also issued a circular (dated 23/3/2006) to all State Governments to fill up the vacant teaching posts as per norms of the Commission, because appointment of faculty on contract, part-time and as guest-faculty on long-term basis affects the quality of higher education. The Central Government has already increased the age of superannuation from 62 years to 65 years in respect of teachers of Centrally funded Technical and Higher Educational Institutions which come under the purview of Ministry of Human Resource Development to overcome the shortage of experienced teachers. The State Governments have also been requested to take similar action.

ITI National Central University

2821. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to open ITI National Central University in Orissa and in some other States;

(b) if so, what is the time-frame; and

(c) whether all universities would be opened during 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Government has decided, in principle, to set up 16 Central Universities-one each in those States as have no Central University-during the Eleventh Plan. Orissa being one of such States, a Central University would, thus, be set up therein.

Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas

2822. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas functioning in the country;

(b) whether Government has proposed to open new Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas to cater the needs of the students; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There are 972 functional Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and 554 functional Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in the country.

(b) and (c) Opending of a KV depends upon receipt of a viable proposal from the sponsor *i.e.* State Government/Public Sector Undertakings etc. committing free land & temporary accommodation, availability of adequate number of students of specified categories, approval of competent authority and availability of funds. Opening of a JNV is also based on receipt of a viable proposal from the concerned State/UT Government offering suitable land free of cost along with provision of temporary building till the construction of permanent building, and is further subject to sanction of competent authority and availability of funds.

Financial assistance under SSA for modernization of Madarsas

2823. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has given any financial assistance under SSA for modernization of Madarsas and appointment of Urdu language teachers in the country; and

(b) if so, details thereof, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Central Government assists the modernization of Madarsas through separate scheme of 'Area Intensive & Madarsas Modernization Programme'. The details of allocations under this programme are enclosed as Statement-I (*See* below).

The appointment of Urdu language teachers is done under the Scheme of "Appointment of Language Teachers (Urdu)". 1926 Urdu teachers have been sanctioned in the year 2007-08. The details are enclosed as Statement-II.